



Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority

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March 12, 2010

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 388 --

AAC CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Sidney J. Holbrook, the Executive Director of the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority (GNHWPCA). As a Regional Sewer Authority created in 2005, by an act of the legislature, GNHWPCA serves 200,000 people throughout the City of New Haven, and the Towns of East Haven, Hamden and Woodbridge. We manage and maintain one of the largest sewer systems in the state, including the largest Water Pollution Abatement Facility along the Connecticut Shoreline, treating 30 million gallons of used water every day to protect the waters of Long Island Sound, and add to the quality of life we cherish here in Connecticut.

We support the bold statement of the Environment Committee in Raised Bill No. 388, by increasing the level of funding for protection of our waters. This increased level of funding will do more than just provide for improving the level of treatment for the million gallons of water used every day in our service area. The funds will come at a time when increased construction activity will help the urban centers that need it most. Connecticut will be positioned for private investment with a strong infrastructure backbone in the ground to support economic development. The investments will improve the quality of our natural water resources that are a mainstay of the quality of life in Connecticut.

In the 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers issued a **Grade of D-** for **Wastewater Infrastructure**. It is estimated that Connecticut's Wastewater Infrastructure needs over the next 5 years are approximately \$2.6 billion. This is due in part to the current age of the State's wastewater collections and treatment systems. Several of Connecticut's piping networks date back to the 19th century when it was common practice to discharge raw sewage directly to our rivers and Long Island Sound. Treatment systems date back to the Clean Water Act of the 1970s and have past their useful life due to age and the need to treat water to a much higher quality than was achievable 30 years ago.

The time for investment in our water infrastructure is now. Communities cannot do it alone. We need your help with funding. Construction costs are 25% to 40% below historical estimates providing greater value to the taxpayers and rate payers. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has used a formula for years that rate each project on several merits thus assuring the funds are distributed where needed. Your help in investing in Connecticut's future is needed. Please approve Raised Bill 388 and continue to support it as it moves along the legislative process.